

6.4.92
Mary West

Governors Office

Randy Moon -

Minutes of mtg. with

BLM follow. (4 pages)

Your assignment from

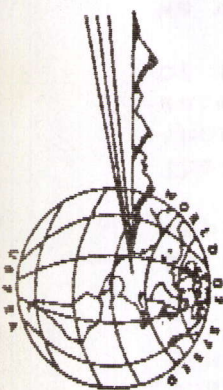
Strategy Mtg. "Convene with

local and County Board to

appraise them of the Save

the Salt project."

Mary



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OPERATION SALT MEETING
BLM OFFICES
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
May 21, 1992

In attendance: Bob McNeeley and Clarence Prentice of Reilly Industries. Howard Hedrick BLM, Doug Koza BLM Minerals Div. State Office. Diane Nielson, Utah, Jim Kohler BLM, Utah State Office, Larry Volk President of USFRA, Chuck Kalbach President of SCTA. Mary West USFRA and Jim Lattin of BNI were observers. Mr. Jim Parker of BLM came in at a later time, and was appraised of what had been said.

Bob McNeeley of Reilly took charge of the meeting. He stated that this was an information session for the benefit of the BLM. We want them to know where we are in regards to the salt loss on the surface of the Bonneville Salt Flats. He further stated that for the past 12 months we have been pursuing from a technical stand point, the process of replacing the surface of the salt flats.

They (Reilly) had embarked on this study independently and then cooperatively with the racing group. They have now entered into an agreement with the Racers to share the cost of implementing the solution to the salt depletion problem.

We wish to make you aware of what we'd like to do and we would be glad to answer your questions. We are not here asking for anything at this point. This is an information session only.

From a technical standpoint, we want to dissolve the salt that is in large abandoned evaporation ponds and return it to a 28 sq. mile area. We would re-dissolve the salt with brackish well water and return this enriched salt water to the racing surface. We have a technical plan and a capital budget of \$600,000 to \$800,000. We have an agreement in principle with the racers to fund equally.

We will entertain any questions you might have and we want to leave with you a copy of the Letter of Intent signed by the two racing organizations.

Clarence Prentice stated that we also want to leave with you the study from an outside firm. The next step will be to put the issue before the Technical Review Committee. Diane will give it to them at a meeting with Dean Zeller. /No

June 3rd will be the next meeting of that group. Clarence asked if the study could be handed out at the meeting if it wasn't on the agenda.

Howard asked if they had a full agenda. Probably a quarterly report. Doug said that the committee is very interested in the salt restoration project and asked Hugh Coltharp at the last meeting. Hugh didn't have any information at that time.

Clarence further stated that Reilly was comfortable with the agreement between the racers. We have been held up until everyone agreed.

Bob emphasized that we want to fix the problem. It was noted that 28 sq. miles with approximately .4 inch per year. There is enough salt in one pond to do the project for 5 years. There would only be pumping during the months from Dec. thru February. Pumping would begin in late fall of 1993.

Howard asked if we could pump this coming winter. Clarence said that we need to get rid of the old ditch, and the ditches need to be widened and made deeper. Engineering wise we wouldn't have enough time. There would be more than 1 point of distribution. Water would come from existing wells.

Diane commented that the Racers and Reilly wanted to work together to solve the problem. The State and the Governor is very interested. The Salt Flats is a valuable resource. It is an area of concern. Randy Moon and Diane have looked at the study and they see no problems with it. We do not know if it will work, but there is no reason not to do it. The State wants us to go forward to improve the condition of the salt. We want to coordinate with the BLM and move forward. Doug said that we can work thru the technical review committee. Reilly and the Racers are asking for permission to go forward.

Bob said that they (Reilly) had considered flooding some test spots in Dec. of 1990. This would have been expensive and a year lost. We are anxious for a solution as soon as possible.

Howard said that he felt that the documents could go thru quickly. Clarence said there was many man hours and equipment to obtain before we can move. Howard said it should go before the Technical Review Comm. before we give the go ahead. Clarence commented that our study and the USGS overlaps. What kind of permit is needed? Howard said that is was under Special Recreation Management Area. Clarence said that Reilly had investigated and that it was called another name and that what we wanted to do was permissable under that designated law.

2:35 p.m. Jim Parker came in and Doug gave him a briefing of what had transpired thus far.

Diane commented that some preparatory work needs to be done. We do not want to disrupt the equilibrium of the USGS.

Jim Parker asked about the cost and the area to be covered.

Bob then commented that it was a 600 K exercise and that an agreement had been signed , (Letter of Intent). We are not asking for anything. The Salt Flats has drawn a lot of attention from the public sector. We wanted to come to you and talk to you first before we move forward.

Mr. Parker asked if anyone was opposed, perhaps the USGS?

Diane said that the objective is to understand how the system works. From a scientific perspective, they'll be protective of the area of study.

Clarence said that the new construction would be on the Reilly side of the road. A new transfer ditch would be dug that will pump 6000 gal per min. It will be unseen by anyone as it will be reintroduced during the winter when there is water on the salt. We will have to build back the ditch and trap the water on the east end.

Howard asked if it would come thru the existing right of way. Yes, old existing ditches will be used, nothing else on public land. Howard said that it looked like a part of the Letter of Intent would effect the BLM. He further stated that if the Technical Committee endorses the plan then it should go thru.

Diane said the project would protect and reverse the loss to the flats.) No

Jim asked if the film people would be unhappy. Howard answered that little activity goes on at that time of year.

Chuck commented that if it were a wet year there might be no pumping at all. If this process works then everyone will be happy.

Diane said that no one is asked to make an endorsement that the project will work. The people involved who are putting up the money are willing to take the risk.

Jim asked, What if it doesn't work? Clarence answered that we would be out a lot of dollars. Bob said that it is a matter of what degree of success we will have. Howard said that we want no down side to the project, and BLM would realize there was no guarantee of success.

Jim asked about possible liabilities? Clarence answered that we are treating it as a rehabilitation project. It should be a better and longer raceway. Bob said, "a quality surface"

Clarence said that if we manage the project and take from the one pond for 5 years we can then evaluate, we can go on or stop for a year or two. It will take constant evaluation.

Jim said, You are going to create salt? Yes, from brackish water.

Bob concluded by thanking everyone for coming. He appreciated everyones attendance on such short notice.

Jim said that we need a good positive name for the project

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Diane suggested that the Study be sent out before the meeting of the Technical Review Committee. It would give each member a good opportunity to review it. There would be no decision until the next meeting. Not force people to make a decision. The committee is very interested, members have asked how it was coming.

Doug said that the USGS would have no involvement other than any impact it would have on their area.

Diane said we do not want to short change the USGS.

Clarence said that if the study is on the agenda that Brent would be there.

Howard said it would be an introduction, with no decision.

Meeting adjourned.

Mary West